CLAIMS

1.   A telecommunications system adapted to act as a platform for electronic meetings, comprising a visitor's computer, an administration computer, an application computer, a firewall protecting said application computer and a transmission path over the Internet, characterised in that communications between said visitor's computer and said application computer are mediated by an electronic badge generated by said administration computer and operating on said visitor's computer.

2.   A telecommunications system, as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that said administration computer and application computer are realised on a single data processing machine.

3.   A telecommunications system, as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that said administration computer and application computer are distinct data processing machines, and in that communications between said visitor's computer and said application computer are controlled by a firewall located in said administration computer.

4.   A telecommunications system, as claimed in _Claim 1,_ ~~any previous claim,~~ characterised in that said administration computer is protected by a firewall.

5.   A telecommunications system, as claimed in _Claim 1,_ ~~any previous claim,~~ characterised in that said electronic badge is an applet containing data identifying a visitor, a password, and a list of access rights relating to software applications running on said application computer.

6.   A telecommunications system as claimed in claim 5, characterised in that said list of access rights may permit access to one, or more, software applications.

7.   A telecommunications system, as claimed in _Claim 5,_ ~~either claim 5, or 6,~~ characterised in that said applet is adapted to run on said visitor's computer and

cause one, or more, icons to be displayed on a VDU associated with said visitor's computer.

8. A telecommunications system, as claimed in *Claim 1,* ~~any previous claim~~ characterised in that said administration computer includes a control panel linked to a web server adapted to issue electronic badges.

9. A telecommunications system, as claimed in claim 8, characterised in that said administration computer includes a control server linked to said control panel and said web server, and a database of access rules linked to said control server.

10. A telecommunications system, as claimed in claim 9, characterised in that said control server is linked to a firewall protecting said application computer, and in that said database of access rules is linked to said firewall protecting said application computer.

11. A telecommunications system, as claimed in claim 10, characterised in that access to said webserver is controlled by a password protection means.

12. A telecommunications system, as claimed in *Claim 8,* ~~any of claims 8 to 11,~~ characterised in that an electronic visitor's badge can be created from said control panel and deposited for collection on said webserver.

13. A telecommunications system, as claimed in *Claim 8,* ~~any of claims 8 to 12,~~ characterised in that said visitor's computer can download said electronic visitor's badge by accessing said web server and giving a password and visitor identification.

14. A telecommunications system, as claimed in *Claim 8,* ~~any of claims 8 to 13,~~ characterised in that access rights associated with said visitor's badge can be altered while said visitor computer is connected to said application computer.

15. A telecommunications system, as claimed in *Claim 8,* ~~any of claims 8 to 14,~~ characterised in that said visitor's badge is adapted to self destruct on receipt of a

signal from said control server.

16. A method of establishing access for a visitor's computer to an application computer protected by a firewall generated by an administration computer, over the Internet, characterised by mediating communications between said visitor's computer and said application computer with an electronic badge generated on said administration computer and operating on said visitor's computer.

17. A method, as claimed in claim 16, characterised by realising said administration computer and said application computer on a single data processing machine.

18. A method, as claimed in claim 16, characterised by realising said administration computer and application computer as distinct data processing machines, and by controlling communications between said visitor's computer and said application computer through a firewall located in said administration computer.

19. A method, as claimed in ~~any of claims 16 to 19~~ *Claim 16,* characterised by protecting said administration computer with a firewall.

20. A method, as claimed in ~~any of claims 16 to 19,~~ *Claim 16,* characterised by said electronic badge being an applet containing data identifying a visitor, a password, and a list of access rights relating to software applications running on said application computer.

21. A method, as claimed in claim 20, characterised by said list of access rights permitting access to one, or more, software applications.

22. A method, as claimed in ~~either claim 20, or 21,~~ *Claim 20,* characterised by said applet running on said visitor's computer and causing one, or more, icons to be displayed on a VDU associated with said visitor's computer.

23. A method, as claimed in ~~any of claims 16 to 22,~~ *Claim 16,* characterised by said administration computer including a control panel linked to a web server adapted

to issue electronic badges.

24. A method, as claimed in claim 23, characterised by the steps of:

- establishing a voice link over the PSTN between a person operating said visitor's computer, herein referred to as a visitor, and a person operating said administration computer, herein referred to as a host;

- said host establishing that said visitor has clearance to access said application computer, and

- assigning and communicating a password to said visitor over said voice link.

25. A method, as claimed in ~~either claim 23, or 24,~~ Claim 23, characterised by said administration computer including a control server linked to said control panel and said web server, and a database of access rules linked to said control server.

26. A method, as claimed in claim 25, characterised by said control server being linked to a firewall protecting said application computer, and by said database of access rules being linked to said firewall protecting said application computer.

27. A method, as claimed in claim 26, characterised by controlling access to said webserver with a password protection means.

28. A method, as claimed in ~~any of claims 24 to 27,~~ Claim 24, characterised by said host creating an electronic visitor's badge by actuation of said control panel and depositing said electronic visitor's badge, for collection by said visitor, on said webserver.

29. A method, as claimed in ~~any of claims 24 to 28,~~ Claim 24, characterised by said visitor accessing said webserver over the Internet, giving said password, and downloading said electronic visitor's badge.

30. A method, as claimed in *Claim 24,* ~~any of claims 24 to 29~~, characterised by the steps of:

- said visitor requesting access, while connected to said application computer, to a first software application, not pre-authorised on said electronic visitor's badge;

- said control panel giving an alarm condition;

- said host confirming over said voice link that said visitor has requested access to said first software application; and

- modifying the access rights associated with said electronic visitor's badge via said control panel.

31. A method, as claimed in *Claim 24,* ~~any of claims 24 to 30~~, characterised by said visitor's badge self destructing on receipt of a signal from said control server.

32. An administration computer, for use with a telecommunications system adapted to act as a platform for electronic meetings, said administration computer having a firewall protecting an application computer, characterised in that said administration computer is adapted to create an electronic badge to mediate communications between a visitor's computer and said application computer.

33. An administration computer, as claimed in claim 32, characterised in that said administration computer and application computer are realised on a single data processing machine.

34. An administration computer, as claimed in claim 32, characterised in that said administration computer and application computer are distinct data processing machines.

35. An administration computer, as claimed in *Claim 32,* ~~any of claims 32 to 34~~, characterised in that said administration computer is protected by a firewall.

36. An administration computer, as claimed in *Claim 32,* ~~any of claims 32 to 34,~~ characterised in that said electronic badge is an applet containing data identifying a visitor, a password, and a list of access rights relating to software applications running on said application computer.

37. An administration computer as claimed in claim 36, characterised in that said list of access rights may permit access to one, or more, software applications.

38. An administration computer, as claimed in *Claim 36,* ~~either claim 36, or 37,~~ characterised in that said applet is adapted to run on said visitor's computer and cause one, or more, icons to be displayed on a VDU associated with said visitor's computer.

39. An administration computer, as claimed in *Claim 32,* ~~any of claims 32 to 38,~~ characterised in that said administration computer includes a control panel linked to a web server adapted to issue electronic badges.

40. An administration computer, as claimed in claim 39, characterised in that said administration computer includes a control server linked to said control panel and said web server, and a database of access rules linked to said control server.

41. An administration computer, as claimed in claim 40, characterised in that said control server is linked to a firewall protecting said application computer, and in that said database of access rules is linked to said firewall protecting said application computer.

42. An administration computer, as claimed in claim 41, characterised in that access to said webserver is controlled by a password protection means.

43. An administration computer, as claimed in *Claim 36,* ~~any of claims 36 to 42,~~ characterised in that an electronic visitor's badge can be created from said control panel and deposited for collection on said webserver.

44.   An administration computer, as claimed in ~~Claim 36,~~ ~~any of claims 36 to 42,~~ characterised in that access rights associated with said visitor's badge can be altered while a visitor computer is connected to said application computer.